



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

January 12, 2021

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brown:

Thank you for your letter dated November 2, 2020, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew R. Wheeler in which you discuss EPA's response to the recommendation submitted to EPA by the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) under Clean Air Act (CAA) section 184(c) earlier this year. The Administrator asked that I respond to your letter.

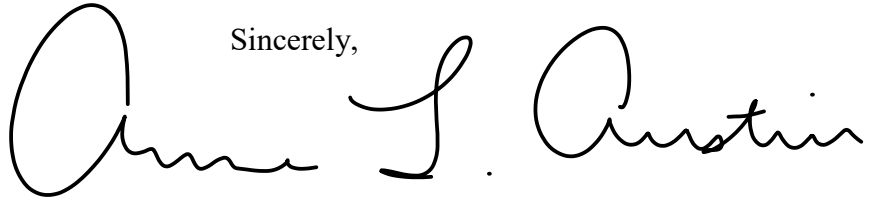
At EPA, we share your concerns about the impacts of interstate ozone transport on downwind nonattainment areas. We also recognize the progress Maryland and other states have made in reducing their nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions within their own borders.

As you know, shortly after receiving the OTC recommendation, EPA published a notice of availability in the *Federal Register*. We then announced that we were preparing a *Federal Register* notice to both announce a public hearing and provide additional information relating to the recommendation. On December 15, 2020, we issued a second notice containing the additional information and hearing details. The notice summarizes the recommendation and supporting information submitted by the OTC and provides additional information that EPA believes may be relevant in reaching a decision on the recommendation. Once published in the Federal Register, this notice will also open a public comment period on the recommendation and the additional information being provided by EPA. Both the hearing date and the close of the comment period will be determined based on the date of publication in the Federal Register. We believe the additional information will enable the public hearing to be more productive and that the information and comments will be valuable to EPA in reaching a decision on the recommendation.

In addition to the hearing and opportunity for comment, we look forward to additional input from Maryland and the other states in the OTC during CAA section the 184(c)'s consultation phase. We appreciate your patience as we work to respond to the recommendation and look forward to making progress on that front with your continued help.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Patricia Haman in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at haman.patricia@epa.gov or (202) 564-2806.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne L. Austin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a distinct "L" before the surname "Austin".

Anne L. Austin

Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator